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Dear Superintendent and School Board Trustees,

When does this end? I need you to tell me when you believe we will end restrictions like masks, quarantines and testing on our children.

**We're told our kids have to wear masks until they're all vaccinated to keep them from spreading the virus, but now the CDC just admitted<sup>1</sup> that those who have been vaccinated:**

1. Still get infected.
2. Have the same amount of virus as those who are unvaccinated, and
3. Can likely to transmit the virus as easily as those who are unvaccinated.

But the biggest takeaway from this news is not just that we should stop treating vaccinated people different from unvaccinated people. It's that we can finally admit that the virus isn't going away, and that restrictions like masks are pointless. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease expert at John Hopkins, stated:

"And to what end are we wearing masks for? COVID is not a disease that can be eradicated or limited, and we will always have cases. The goal was to make it a manageable respiratory illness, and it is so in many places where enough high-risk individuals have been vaccinated."<sup>2</sup>

**We're told our kids have to wear masks because they are at risk from COVID, but the data shows their risk is less than from other respiratory viruses like influenza:**

1. The CDC estimates 332 children have died from COVID-19 in 18 months.<sup>3</sup>
2. The CDC also estimates 434 children died from influenza during the 12 month 2019-20 flu season<sup>4</sup> and 600 children died from influenza during the 2017-18 season<sup>5</sup> – more deaths despite a widely administered vaccine and lower case rates.<sup>6</sup>
3. The New York Times found children are about 10 times more likely to die in a car accident than from COVID.<sup>7</sup>
4. The Financial Times found children at less risk from COVID-19 (0.0002%) than vaccinated adults.<sup>8</sup>

So please explain why are we forcing our children to wear masks, kicking them out of school for weeks and testing them for dead virus when they have no symptoms to avoid a virus no worse than influenza?

**We're told they must wear masks to slow the spread of COVID-19, but numerous studies show that schools without mask requirements for children had case rates just as low<sup>9 10 11</sup> or even lower<sup>12</sup> than schools which did have mask requirements.**

Have you read these studies? Have you asked the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) why, of all the safety measures they recommend – symptom screening, ventilation, spacing, hand hygiene and testing – the *only* one they *require* is the one with the least evidence to support it? Do you wonder why at least 40 states in the US don't require masks in school?<sup>13</sup> Or perhaps you remember that California was 50<sup>th</sup> in the US in reopening schools,<sup>14</sup> so you already know that California does not follow the science.

**So again, our question to you is when will these restrictions end?** CDPH says kids must wear masks even if there are 0 community cases and 100% vaccination rates. For them, *this will never end*. Your job is to tell them that it's over and not engage with them in this pointless war against a virus that will never go away. We need you to fight for our kids to get back in school in an environment conducive to learning by ending these unnecessary requirements for masks, quarantines and testing in school.

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- <sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/07/29/cdc-mask-guidance/>
  - <sup>2</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2021-07-27/cdc-to-advise-return-to-masks-indoors-for-some-vaccinated-americans>
  - <sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html>
  - <sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/2019-2020.html>
  - <sup>5</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/2019-2020/2019-20-pediatric-flu-deaths.htm?web=1&wdLOR=cFF98CDC7-76A9-482E-995F-4BF669C8B244>
  - <sup>6</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/2019-2020.html>
  - <sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/18/briefing/kids-covid-and-delta.html>
  - <sup>8</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/0f11b219-0f1b-420e-8188-6651d1e749ff>
  - <sup>9</sup> <https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.26.1.2002011>
  - <sup>10</sup> <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2026670?query=TOC&fbclid=IwAR3fY8mbKoRontMlt-PNhZ7QK1h0SXxJ6Hoq7AOe4wn2TTIK6OPHApy7ISA>
  - <sup>11</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7021e1.htm>
  - <sup>12</sup> <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.19.21257467v1.full>
  - <sup>13</sup> <https://about.burbio.com/school-mask-policies-by-state/>
  - <sup>14</sup> <https://cai.burbio.com/school-opening-tracker/?fbclid=IwAR3th72snMdJLsduzuvrJQGgXnA1Bi9vW3v9z1PbTR1skmWwNvNW1855dqs>